YOUTH INFORMATION BULLETIN

PREFACE

The Youth Information Bulletin is published three times a year by the United Nations Office at Vienna/Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs (UNOV/CSDHA) in English, French and Spanish. As one of the leading United Nations publications on youth, the Bulletin has the following objectives: to provide publicity for and about youth; to highlight and to facilitate the sharing and exchange of information on issues of concern to youth; and to report on programmes and activities relating to youth.

Contributions to the Bulletin are an important means of improving the channels of communication between the United Nations and youth and youth organizations. Organizations and individuals are invited to contribute regularly to the Bulletin.

All information on youth that might be of interest to others in this field is welcome. We regularly review a wide variety of publications and extract information relevant to youth.

As the Bulletin is prepared in English at the beginning of March, July and November, contributions should reach us by the middle of February, June and October. Please send your materials to:

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I. YOUTH ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

A. Secretariat of the United Nations

The United Nations Office at Vienna/Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs (UNOV/CSDHA), which was designated as the focal point for youth matters within the United Nations system, has continued to promote its mandated functions. These include the follow-up to the International Youth Year (IYY) and the promotion, monitoring and appraisal of the guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth. The youth-related activities of UNOV/CSDHA from January to June 1990 are described below.

Report to the General Assembly

In accordance with General Assembly resolutions 43/136 and 44/59, UNOV/CSDHA prepared a report of the Secretary-General entitled "Policies and programmes involving young people: participation, development, peace" for submission to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session. The report was based on information received from Member States, United Nations organizations and specialized agencies, as well as from intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. It provided an overview of activities carried out at the international, regional and national levels for the implementation of the guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth and evaluated the implementation of the Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding between Peoples (for text of Declaration, see annex). The report identified the future orientation of the youth programme of the United Nations and included a number of recommendations for the consideration of the General Assembly.

In its resolution 44/59, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to organize a meeting, from extrabudgetary resources if necessary, between United Nations bodies and the specialized agencies concerned and non-governmental youth organizations to discuss the problems of existing channels of communication between the United Nations system and youth organizations with a view to improving those channels and establishing effective structures of communication and co-operation between youth and the United Nations. The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to develop methods that indicated specifically how the channels of communication could efficiently be attuned to youth-related projects and activities of the United Nations organizing and of the specialized agencies.

Preparations are being made to organize a youth forum of the United Nations system in the second or third quarter of 1991 to review those questions and to make recommendations. The Secretary-General will report on those matters to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session, in 1991, and include in that report concrete suggestions for co-operation between the United Nations system and non-governmental youth organizations.

Research on youth policies and programmes

World social situation of youth in the 1990s

The Youth Unit (UNOV/CSDHA) is preparing a sales publication on the world social situation of youth in the 1990s, to be completed in the fourth quarter of 1991. Several research centres and institutes with expertise on youth policies and programmes are being contacted to provide relevant information. The new study will begin with a discussion of changing conceptions of youth

and the role of youth in the contemporary world, especially since IYY. It will contain the following sections: demographic situation of youth 1990-2025; trend analysis of the situation of youth (cross-sectoral and sectoral, on such aspects as political, economic and social problems and prospects in the context of overall development); major youth problems in the 1990s (participation, education, employment, health, acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), delinquency, crime, drug abuse etc.); regional perspectives; and conclusions. The Youth Unit has already discussed various chapters of the study with representatives of major world youth organizations, including the World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFDY) and national youth organizations. In April 1990, a representative of the Scientific Research Centre of the Central Committee of the All-Union Leninist Young Communist League (KOMSOMOL), Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, visited UNOV/CSDHA to discuss co-operation for the preparation of that study. It was agreed that the Scientific Research Centre of KOMSOMOL would prepare a chapter on the situation of youth in USSR. Regional research centres, institutes and youth organizations are also being contacted for information on the situation of youth in their regions.

Global study on youth and AIDS

The Youth Unit is collaborating with the World Assembly of Youth (WAY) to prepare a technical publication Youth and Aids: Strategy for Information and Educational Programmes on AIDS. The publication will include a qualitative and quantitative description of the impact of AIDS on youth. It will underline the importance of adequate information and effective educational programmes for young people as a means of AIDS prevention and control.

The relative strategies will be described in order that youth and youth organizations can review, adopt and apply them in a variety of settings and situations. The publication should be completed by the end of 1990.

WAY publishes a special newsletter Youth and AIDS Update and provides news about the Global Programme on AIDS of the World Health Organization (WHO) and its efforts to involve youth in AIDS-prevention programmes.

For further information, please contact: Youth and AIDS Update, WAY, Bellahoj, 2700 Bronshoj, Denmark.

Channels of communication and modes of co-operation with non-governmental youth organizations

Non-governmental organizations play an important role as partners to UNOV/CSDHA in the field of youth-related work. The Youth Unit provides technical assistance and support to the Geneva Informal Meeting of International Non-Governmental Organizations (GIM) and the Vienna NGO Committee on Youth. Both of those organizations held meetings at UNOV in June 1990; GIM held its seventy-fifth session on 18 and 19 June. The session was attended by members of GIM Preparatory Liaison Group: International Christian Youth Exchange (ICYE); International Union of Students; WFDY; Young Men's Christian Association, European office; a representative of the Vienna NGO Committee on Youth, who is also a member of Zonta International, and representatives of the Youth Unit. GIM reviewed: (a) youth activities of the United Nations system; in particular, a report of the International Symposium on the Integration of Young People into Society (Toledo, Spain, 4-8 June 1990) organized by UNOV/CSDHA in co-operation with the Youth Institute, Ministry for Social Affairs, Spain; and (b) related youth activities of UNOV/CSDHA. GIM also discussed plans for a regional workshop on Africa, the GIM Plan of Action 1990-1992 and the overall functioning of GIM in the years ahead. It gave priority (a) in 1990, to its

planned seminar at Nairobi; (b) in 1991, to the planned youth non-governmental organization/United Nations system meeting on channels of communications (General Assembly resolution 44/59); and (c) in 1992, to a regional consultation of youth non-governmental organizations in Asia. It agreed that GIM would consult further with UNOV/CSDHA on the 1991 meeting and with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific Standing Committee on Youth in Asia and the Pacific for the 1992 meeting. GIM designated the representative of ICYE to be the GIM liaison at UNOV/CSDHA for 1990 to follow up and assist GIM activities on a systematic basis. The Vienna NGO Committee on Youth met at UNOV subsequent to the GIM session and discussed a number of issues related to the individual and co-operative youth-related activities of its member organizations.

International Symposium on the Integration of Young People into Society

The International Symposium on the Integration of Young People into Society was held at Toledo, Spain, from 4 to 8 June 1990. It was financed by the Government of Spain and organized by UNOV/CSDHA, in close co-operation with the Youth Institute, Ministry for Social Affairs, Spain. Representatives attended from 20 member States of the Commission for Social Development, and observers from organizations and agencies of the United Nations system and an international youth non-governmental organization also attended. The guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth, endorsed by the General Assembly at its fortieth session, devote special attention to the integration of young people into society. The Symposium reached several specific conclusions and adopted numerous recommendations on that question. A central issue concerned the definition of the concept of integration of young people into society. This would mean (a) the creation of a dynamic interrelationship between youth and adult society; (b) an active participation by young women and men on an equal basis in the political, economic, social and cultural life of society; (c) the fullest possible use of youth's creativity for the benefit of genuine democracy and development; and (d) an obligation on the part of adult society to provide equal opportunities for various categories of youth. The Symposium identified policy options and made recommendations to the Commission to assist it in its consideration, at its session in 1991, of its priority theme, the integration of young people into society. Copies of the report of the Symposium may be obtained from the Youth Unit.

B. Organizations and agencies of the United Nations system

Inter-agency activity in the field of youth

Youth work is interdisciplinary in character. Consequently, the main concern of the international activities of the various organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations system should be to complement and support national- and regional-level action.

In general, the work of the organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations system has been developed in compliance with the main objectives of the guidelines:

(a) Initiating and promoting action-oriented research activities;

(b) Promoting the dissemination and exchange of information on and for young people;

(c) Assisting in drawing up policies and implementing programmes intended to increase the integration of the young people into the life of society;

(d) Ensuring effective co-operation with youth and youth-related non-governmental organizations.

As each of the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system has specific areas of concern, different emphasis has been placed on activities related to youth issues.

United Nations Children's Fund

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has a long-standing commitment to youth issues. The Convention on the Rights of the Child offered a new opportunity for UNICEF to develop and strengthen its relations with youth non-governmental organizations. The Convention raised global issues about children and young people, and several youth non-governmental organizations were already organizing events related to it in co-operation with UNICEF. UNICEF has published an annual report entitled The State of the World's Children, 1990. The report states that about 40,000 children are dying each day - one almost every two seconds. Of those, nearly 8,000 die because they have not been immunized and nearly 7,000 die from dehydration caused by diarrhoea. Pneumonia also ranked high as a cause of death. According to the Executive Director of UNICEF, "Death and suffering on this scale is simply no longer necessary. It would cost us about $US 2.5 billion to immunize and treat dehydration and pneumonia. UNICEF argues that only high-level political commitment can put low-cost solutions into practice on the scale that is needed".

To this end, UNICEF called for a World Summit on Children, which was held at the United Nations in New York in September 1990. Youth groups were invited to play an active role in the preparatory work. UNICEF also organized an exhibition of drawings by young people under the age of 18 on the Rights of the Child.

United Nations Volunteers

Involvement of the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) in youth issues has been mainly at the grass-roots level. UNV carried out a large number of youth projects and programmes, which contributed to the implementation of the guidelines at the policy level, to the mobilization of resources and to the facilitation of the direct involvement of young people themselves. Now, 15 per cent of the UNV Special Voluntary Fund can be used for pilot youth projects.

International Labour Organisation

The World Employment Programme of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) conducts research studies on youth issues relating to the employment sector in industrial and developing countries. Related work concerns training programmes for young people, dealing with issues such as entrepreneurship and problems of young workers in particular industries. Recently, ILO completed a study on migrants. According to the study, 10 per cent of Europeans under the age of 20 are children of migrants who came to Europe in the pre-recession years to do jobs that no one wanted. Their ranks are growing by approximately 400,000 each year. These young people encounter difficulties from the time they enter school to the time they begin working. Despite special programmes designed to integrate them, many foreign students at the secondary-school level are in remedial classes. The figure is as high as 19 per cent in Switzerland, for example. There is also a tendency for these students to drop out of school early.

It is estimated that in what was formerly the Federal Republic of Germany, between 30 and 40 per cent of immigrant youths do not obtain certificates for completing their studies, which means that they are effectively excluded from apprenticeship positions. Those who do not find apprenticeships usually end up as low-skilled or unskilled workers concentrated in the industrial or tertiary sectors (construction, sanitation etc.). In Sweden, the rate of unemployment among immigrant youths (aged between 20 and 24 years) is 11 per cent, while for nationals in the same age bracket, it is only 6.6 per cent. That, says ILO, seems to indicate that the educational and vocational training systems have not solved the problem of equal opportunity and have allowed inequalities to be perpetuated. The study found that the policies needed to help this second generation to overcome their handicaps and realize their full potential are slow in coming. Yet, they are the subject of passionate debate both in the host countries and in the countries of origin. The battle against discrimination means a reinforcement and an enlargement of the rights granted to the children of immigrants. In education, the first step would be to prevent failure at school and provide immigrant youth with easier access to training and jobs, especially in sectors traditionally reserved for nationals, such as the civil service. Participation in social and political affairs, concludes the report, could be made possible by granting the right to vote.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

The work of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in the field of youth has continued in accordance with four resolutions adopted by the UNESCO General Conference at its twenty-fifth session and has concentrated on two main areas: (a) youth as a transverse theme; and (b) a mobilizing project on youth. With regard to the first area, the medium-term plan for 1990-1995 considers youth issues in all its major programmes. With regard to the second, special emphasis is placed on youth exchanges, East-West and North-South, stressing the setting up of an international network on youth. The objectives of such exchange programmes are to initiate a multiplier effect and to make youth exchanges a real tool for training in international understanding.

World Health Organization

Youth issues are considered by WHO within the framework of two main programmes: the adolescent health programme and the youth programme on AIDS. The first emphasizes the needs of developing countries. WHO regional offices have established adolescent focal points, and this has resulted in a tremendous increase in national-level activities. The second programme not only considers youth as a major target group but prepares young people for active participation in AIDS work. WHO continues to foster participation with youth organizations in order to promote the participation of young people in programme development. Youth was a special theme in the World No-Tobacco Day 1990.

United Nations Women's Guild donates 1.2 million Austrian schillings

The United Nations Women's Guild has donated 1.2 million Austrian schillings this year to children's hospitals and various organizations concerned with children, UNICEF being the largest recipient. A cheque for S 400,000 was presented to UNICEF at a donation ceremony held at the Vienna International Centre on 17 January 1990. The other recipients were charitable organizations: seven in developing countries, three in Austria and one in Eastern Europe. The funds were raised at the Guild's annual bazaar held at Vienna in December 1989.

II. YOUTH ACTIVITIES AROUND THE WORLD

A. International level

Symposium on development and environment challenges

In co-operation with the National Union of Iraqi Student and Youth (NUISY), the World Assembly of Youth (WAY) organized an International Youth Symposium on Development and Environment, held 4-5 February 1990 at Baghdad. The Symposium was attended by youth workers from 51 countries, and representatives from the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The Symposium adopted the following statement:

"We, young people around the world:

Recognize that a large proportion of the world's population lives in poverty and inadequate economic conditions;

Affirm that sustainable development suitable for our environment is the first priority, for the fulfilment of acceptable standards of living, to provide the basic amenities to the people. Development is and should be towards higher living conditions without the destruction of the environment;

Believe that haphazard development contributes towards the deterioration of the environment;

Know that the ozone layer is being destroyed and the air is polluted, that desertification and deforestation are rapidly growing, that pollution and misuse of our water resources have arrived at a critically negative point and that all of the above are seriously threatening the fauna and flora of our world;

Feel that this situation is serious and dangerous, a threat to the environment and actually affecting the survival of our world;

Recognize that 60 per cent of the population in the third world countries is under 25 years old, which makes them the single largest force, thus they can make a positive impact on the environment if they are properly informed, educated, motivated and dedicated to serve the earth;

Urge all youth and their organizations of the world to recognize the imminent dangers that our earth is facing and, to recognize that this will affect every living being. Therefore, we urge them to take the appropriate actions to safeguard our world;

Demand that the production of all products harmful to the ozone layer, the air and the water and any actions harmful to our forests, wildlife or green cover be stopped immediately; and that alternative methods of industrialization and development, which do not threaten our environment, should be provided;

Call upon youth organizations and non-governmental organizations in general to pressure their national Governments to implement the above demands and to monitor the environmental situation continuously;

Advise that youth and their organizations must work towards sustainable development, and that they should consolidate their efforts in an attempt to preserve the nature of the world and to achieve a global-scale development that will allow us to pass on a healthy environment to our children and the generations to come."

Source: WAY Information, January/February 1990.

World meeting calls for basic education for all by 2000

The World Conference on Education for All: Meeting Basic Learning Needs was held in Thailand from 5 to 9 March 1990. It was sponsored by UNICEF, UNDP, UNESCO and the World Bank. The Conference adopted a declaration, as well as a framework for action, calling on all countries to provide basic education for all by the year 2000. The Conference, attended by 1,500 delegates representing Governments, intergovernmental agencies and non-governmental organizations, also stressed, in its final document, the educational needs of women and girls, the needs of the handicapped, issues of debt and structural adjustment, the role of teachers and the vital role of non-governmental organizations in improving the world education system. Non-governmental organizations were given full status as Conference delegates, which allowed them to take an active part in plenary sessions and the drafting committee, and to contribute substantially to the outcome of the Conference.

Source: One Country, vol. 2, No. 1, 1990.

World Young Women's Christian Association International Training Institute

The World Young Women's Christian Association (World YWCA) is sponsoring an International Training Institute (ITI) in Switzerland, from 21 January to 17 February 1991. That event is being planned by World YWCA to prepare 30 young women to become key leaders of YWCA. Among the objectives of ITI are: (a) to develop the potential and skills of young women to create a new generation of international leadership; and (b) to provide young women in an international setting with specific skills: programme and leadership planning, administrative, financial management and political advocacy skills, in order to initiate programmes that address the changing socio-economic and political situation within their countries. ITI will also seek to develop networking of YWCAs with other organizations at all levels and to provide participants with a concrete training experience in a YWCA or another non-governmental organization in their region. ITI will be divided into two phases: (a) residential training in Switzerland and (b) a field placement based on the specific needs of the community in which YWCA is situated.

Source: Common Concern, No. 67, 1990.

World Scout Environment Year

World Scout Environment Year began on 1 April 1990. The Year constitutes a framework within which scouts are urged to focus on and promote environment activities and programmes. Camps, jamborees, moots (a moot is a jamboree for scouts aged between 18 and 25) and other special events (e.g. Scout Job Week, community service, fund-raising activities, open days) will serve as opportunities for putting conservation and environmental protection into practice.

The Year will be the subject of a special promotion effort at the three major World Scouting events during this period: 32nd World Scout Conference (France, July 1990), 8th World Moot (Australia, December 1990) and 17th World Jamboree (Republic of Korea, August 1991).

Source: World Scouting News, vol. 22, No. 3, 1990.

Mother Earth by Yoshido Nakano

A new book by the President of the Organization for Industrial Spiritual and Cultural Advancement International (OISCA), Yoshido Nakano, on the problem of global environment has been published recently. The book, Mother Earth, discusses the ideas upon which OISCA activities are based.

For further information, write to: OISCA Bulletin Unit, 6-12 Izumi 3-chome Suginami-ku, Tokyo 168, Japan.

Bahá'í International Community and the International Council of Women announce the establishment of Award

The Bahá'í International Community and the International Council of Women have announced the establishment of the Golden Rule Award (formerly announced as the Laura Dreyfus-Barney Award). The award will be given annually to an organization or individual whose work has made an outstanding contribution towards the advancement of women.

In its first year, in recognition of the vital importance of the International Literacy Year declared by the United Nations for 1990, the award, along with a $US 1,000 cash prize, will go to an outstanding grass-roots literacy project with a focus on women or girls.

The criteria for the Golden Rule Award will be in accordance with the common goals of the collaborating organizations:

(a) To promote equal rights and responsibilities for both men and women in all spheres, by removing all forms of prejudice based on birth, race, sex, language or religion;

(b) To promote recognition and respect for human rights;

(c) To support all efforts to achieve a unifying peace;

(d) To encourage the integration of women in development and in decision-making bodies.

The winner of the award will be announced at a reception towards the end of 1990.

For further information, please contact: Nora El-Toby, A66 United Nations Plaza, Suite 119, New York 10017, United States of America.
Tel.: (212) 486-0560; Fax.: (212) 838-7027.

WAGGGS new environmental initiative

The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) has launched a new project on freshwater resources, in co-operation with the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP). UNEP has agreed to finance the preparation of guidelines and training materials that focus on the protection of freshwater resources through action. This project is a follow-up to the participation of UNEP at the 26th World Conference in Kenya, when the agency recognized the WAGGGS contribution to environmental protection.

The project guidelines were produced for the 27th WAGGGS World Conference in Singapore in June 1990. The Conference workshops on environmental issues, which included freshwater resources protection, reafforestation and alternative energy sources, provided input for the training material that will then be produced to further the programme.

Source: Our World News, No. 25, 1990.

"I Have Planted a Tree for You"

An international team of young research workers, professors, professionals and students, preoccupied by the ecological and socio-economic problems plaguing the world at the end of this century, have launched a vast three-year programme of walking expeditions. Beginning in Italy, they plan to walk through Yugoslavia, Albania, Greece and Turkey on their way to Nairobi, where the headquarters of UNEP is situated, engaging en route in advocacy and development education in defence of the environment.

Their campaign is called "I Have Planted a Tree for You", and they aim to stimulate young people everywhere to plant a tree in the name of someone else. The recipients of this symbolic gift will receive a letter and information suggesting that they do likewise, thus creating a world-wide chain. The team would therefore welcome information on young people, groups, associations, schools etc. likely to be interested in participating. For further information, please contact: J. J. Garreau, International Co-ordinator, "Ho Piantato un Albero Per Te", c/o Servizio Relazioni Internazionali, Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, Ple. A. Moro 7, Rome 00185, Italy.

Source: Go-between, No. 26, 1990.

B. Regional level

Commonwealth Youth Programme developing studies on women's issues

The Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP) has been playing an important role in promoting a variety of activities aimed at the integration of youth into economic life. Together with the Women and Development Programme of the Commonwealth secretariat, CYP has been developing case studies on successful women entrepreneurs.

Information on such case studies may be obtained from CYP or the Women and Development Programme of the Commonwealth secretariat.

Source: In Common, The CYP Newsletter, No. 2, 1990.

Africa

All Africa Youth and Students' Assembly

In August 1990, the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) brought together at Kinshasa, Zaire, young Christians from all over the continent of Africa. There were young people from church groups, and students from secondary schools and universities. The last All Africa Youth and Students' Assembly (AAYSA) was held in 1984, at Yaoundé, Cameroon. AACC Executive Secretary for Youth, Rev. Ngoy Mulunda, discussed what he considered to be the challenge for African youth today. AAYSA, he said, must set a new course of history for Africa. According to Rev. Mulunda,

> "The African continent is experiencing its most difficult period in all spheres of social life. At the close of the 1980s, the World Bank said the people of Africa were almost as poor as they had been 30 years earlier, at independence. Young people, particularly, are on the front line of all the crises. The economic crisis, for instance, is causing many African countries to cut or withdraw educational grants for their students. That is causing a decline both in the quality and opportunity of education."

The Kinshasa Assembly reviewed the situation in southern Africa. The future of young Namibians after independence and the end of apartheid in South Africa were major issues of political and symbolic significance to young people and students from the rest of the continent. An assessment should be made of the processes of peace that certain African States, the Organization of African Unity, and AACC have become engaged in. The issues of refugees and militarism were also discussed.

Source: Youth, vol. 19, No. 1, 1990.

European Assembly on Youth Travel and Exchange

In July 1990, France hosted the European Assembly on Youth Travel and Exchange. The 12 countries of the European Community (EC) and the 6 countries of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) participated in the event, which was organized as part of the European Year of Tourism. Each country created a national committee to co-ordinate and suggest activities linked to the event.

Within that project, regional events took place from 7 to 10 July. On 12 and 13 July, a European Assembly for nearly 500 representatives was convoked in Paris to discuss youth tourism and exchange. The subjects discussed included:

(a) Policies on youth accommodation;

(b) Transportation and pricing policy;

(c) Problems related to youth travel;

(d) Professionalism in youth tourism;

(e) Training of group leaders;

(f) Quality of information to be given to young people;

(g) Linguistic problems.

The subjects discussed at the Assembly were summed up in the form of practical recommendations. Finally, on 14 July, a large demonstration took place in Paris, in which visiting foreign youth, Assembly participants and representatives of French organizations took part. Preparatory committees for the event were organized by the Federation of International Youth Travel Organizations (FIYTO) and by the Maison de la France, with the active participation of the management of the French tourist industry and the secretariat of the European Year of Tourism.

Source: FIYTO Flash, No. 48, 1990.

Europe

New youth officers in European youth organizations

Dominique Bénard has been appointed Regional Executive for the European region of the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM). He will succeed Patrick McLaughlin, who served in the European Regional Office for 16 years, first as Programme Executive and then as Regional Executive. Mr. Bénard is currently a Vice-Chairman of the World Scout Committee, of which he has been a member for the past five years. His involvement in scouting began in 1954, when he joined the Scouts de France; first serving as a scout, rover and unit leader, and then, successively, as Regional Commissioner, National Programme Commissioner, National Training Commissioner and General Commissioner. He has been involved in scouting at European and world levels since 1977 and took office as Regional Executive in early September this year.

Dominique Geeroms, a Belgian, aged 33, was elected as the new Secretary-General of the Youth Forum of the European Communities (YFEC) by the Executive Committee, which met at Dublin on 27 and 28 January. Nominated by the European Trade Union Confederation, has been a member of the Youth Forum Bureau since the 1989 General Assembly and was mainly responsible for work on 1992 and its implications for young people and the Student Forum. He has worked for many years for the "Jeunes CSC", the youth wing of the Belgian Christian Trade Union.

The same Executive Committee elected Brian Carty, an Irishman, aged 27, as Deputy Secretary-General of YFEC. He was nominated by the National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI) and was the Director of the European Students Information Bureau (ESIB) which is based at Vienna. He has been the ESIB delegate to the Youth Forum Executive Committee since 1987 and has been active in youth movements in Ireland since his school-days. In the course of the last year, he has been involved in the creation of the Student Forum and is at present co-ordinating its work.

Source: Youth Opinion, No. 27, 1990.

The Youth Forum and Eastern Europe

As a result of the events in Eastern Europe, and in an attempt to initiate relations with the newly formed democratic youth movements in Eastern Europe, the Youth Forum and the two European-level youth co-ordination offices, the European Co-ordination Bureau (ECB) (for international youth organizations based in Europe) and the Council of European National Youth Committees, are to set up a joint East-West steering group. Antonio Seguro, President of the Youth Forum, and John Ryan, ECB member, will represent the Forum on this steering group.

The first task will be to find partner organizations in Eastern Europe and, depending on the success, a seminar may be held in early 1991.

Source: Youth Forum Bulletin, No. 27, 1990.

Leaders meet on scouting in Eastern Europe

Representatives of Scout and Girl Guide associations in Western Europe and the United States met at Geneva on 3 and 4 February to discuss the revival of the scout movement in Eastern Europe. Seventy leaders from 14 countries reported on the relationships between their members and scouts and girl guides in Eastern Europe, including USSR. Participants agreed that contacts between individual scouts and units in Eastern and Western countries should be encouraged and that information about these contacts should be made available to national scout or guide organizations.

The European Regional Office of the World Scout Bureau, at Geneva, is serving as a clearing house for information on scouting developments in Eastern Europe. In that regard, newly established scouting organizations in Czechoslovakia and Hungary have formally applied to become members of WOSM.

Many offers of financial support for Eastern European scouting have been received. It is suggested that contributions be made to special funds established by national scout associations or to a fund being set up by the European Regional Office.

Source: World Scouting News, vol. 22, No. 2, 1990.

African, Caribbean and Pacific States/EC youth co-operation meeting

As a result of lobbying from the Youth Forum, the Lomé IV Convention underlines the important role that young people can play in increasing co-operation between North and South. Following that agreement, which forms the basis of co-operation programmes between the 68 African, Caribbean and Pacific States (ACP) and the 12 member States of the European Community, youth organizations representing all the countries concerned met in Paris to develop a co-operation network. This network will promote exchanges, projects and initiatives, training and co-operation among youth organizations within ACP. The programmes will aim at mobilizing young people and increasing their integration and participation in the development process. Representatives also drew up a list of priorities in the form of a political declaration to exert influence on Governments in cases where urgent action is needed in order to solve problems of debt, conflict, inequality and health.

A priority of the declaration was the ACP debt, estimated to be about $US 130 billion, which is perpetuating the dependence of developing countries and considerably hindering their efforts towards development in all fields; especially efforts to attain food self-sufficiency, since countries tend to use their limited resources to produce for export in order to pay off their debts. It was also noted that the urgent environmental challenges today, such as deforestation and desertification, the greenhouse effect and the export of dangerous waste, were structurally linked to solving the debt crisis. Having analysed the complexity of the problem, representatives agreed that one way in which progress and stability could be achieved for countries of both North and South would be through the cancellation of all third world debt.

Young people would be calling on the Community to support the efforts of developing countries to manufacture raw materials. To this end, the Community was encouraged to widen the system of preferential trade treatment. Other trade agreements covered by the Lomé Convention that helped to alleviate the problems caused by the collapse of commodity prices should also be extended.

As the situation of women continued to be unsatisfactory, representatives proposed that ACP countries should implement an effective and general programme for the education and training of young women, and that village co-operatives and funding for women's business activities should be established. Regarding the issue of health, it was felt that people should be educated concerning health risks and that primary health care and vaccination programmes should be extended. It was stressed that education, especially an attack on illiteracy, was an essential factor in development.

Source: Youth Forum Bulletin, No. 4, 1990.

Youth exchanges in 1989

Twenty thousand young people participated in "Youth for Europe" exchanges in 1989 and most national agencies responsible for running the programme at national level received more applications than they could cope with. In the light of the popularity of the programme, the European Commission met representatives from the national agencies to draw up proposals for "Youth for Europe". The proposals were discussed at the Youth for Europe Advisory Committee meeting at Brussels on 24 April 1990.

Source: Youth Forum Bulletin, No. 4, 1990.

C. National level

Afghanistan

UNICEF project in Afghanistan

UNICEF has launched a project aimed at meeting the basic needs of Afghan women and children, the most vulnerable groups in the Afghan population. This project is part of the co-ordinated appeal of the United Nations for Afghanistan launched in 1988. It included the provision of medical supplies, supplementary feeding assistance, emergency maternal and child-care assistance and the emergency rehabilitation of the country's main children's hospital. More than 100 tonnes of equipment and emergency supplies arrived in Kabul by mid-January and another 200 tonnes of high-protein food were on the way.

Activities under this project are being carried out principally in Kabul, Mazār-e Sharif, Herāt and in some northern provinces. UNICEF assembled a team of 11 international staff, who initiated a programme in Kabul in January and in the north in March 1990.

By mid-March, in 25 new screening centres 35,000 children had been screened. Supplementary food was being distributed to 15,000 malnourished children and intensive feeding was provided in children's hospitals. UNICEF has also distributed significant quantities of essential drugs to hospitals and clinics.

Source: Operation Salam News, No. 5, 1990.

Argentina

Unemployment in Argentina mainly affecting youth

The serious economic crisis that Argentina is experiencing mainly affects youth and young adults, who have practically no possibility of finding employment. Figures for January 1990 show an unemployment rate of 9 per cent for the whole of the country, but 22.9 per cent for youth between the ages of 15 and 24. This means that there is a youth population without motivation or hope for a better future, whose only wish is to emigrate. The consequent lack of goals and the abundance of leisure time, unfortunately, often leads to alcoholism, drug addiction and delinquency.

The first national poll that took place in Argentina in 1869 revealed a completely different picture. At that time, 89.8 per cent of boys between 15 and 19 years of age were in the labour market, as well as 95.3 per cent of young men between 20 and 24 years of age. Comparable figures for women were 64.2 per cent and 65.9 per cent respectively.

According to a national poll of 1960, only 50 per cent of the youth between 14 and 19 years of age were employed. In 1980, this figure fell to 35 per cent, but on the other hand, there was an important increase in the percentage of youth attending secondary schools: from 27 per cent to 43 per cent between 1960 and 1980. That shows that the integration of youth in the labour market was delayed, as they and their families pursued training with the hope of improving their future working conditions.

The churches and the ecumenical movement in the country are emphasizing the importance of a youth ministry that not only considers the spiritual needs of young people but also their need for guidance in this crisis, to prevent alcoholism and drug addiction and encourage them to set up income-generating co-operatives for self-sufficiency.

Source: Youth, vol. 14, No. 1, 1990.

Cyprus

University to stem youth migration

The Government of Cyprus is hoping to establish a university within the next two years, which may have wide-ranging influence beyond the field of education. The number of young people migrating from Cyprus, primarily to gain university education, has increased steadily over the past few years.

Emigration among Cypriots is not a new phenomenon. Cypriot migration increased steadily through the 1950s, reaching a peak in 1960-1961, when more than 25,000 left Cyprus. Cypriots emigrated then mainly for economic reasons and to obtain better education for their children. The country has one of the highest rates of students in higher-education per 1,000 of the population. Only 15 per cent receive their education in local institutions while the remainder study abroad, mainly in Greece, the United Kingdom and the United States. Of Cypriot students studying abroad, 40 per cent are female.

A main problem in Cyprus today is how to absorb these graduates into the economic life of the country when they return. Growing numbers are either unable to find employment or have to accept work that does not correspond to their education. Consequently, many emigrate, which means a considerable waste of human resources for the country.

There are also other aspects influencing youth employment and economic activities in Cyprus that need to be considered. At the age of 18, every young Cypriot male must enlist in the National Guard for 26 months of compulsory service. As many of these will go on to higher education or to work abroad, a very large segment of the male youth population between the ages of 18 and 25 is removed from the social and economic life of the country.

The establishment of a university will be a major development, not only in the field of education but, by helping to prevent youth migration, it will assist in the economic, social and political development of the country.

Source: In Common, The CYP Newsletter, No. 2, 1990.

Hong Kong

Commission on Youth

The Government of Hong Kong established a Commission on Youth on 15 February 1990 in recognition of the role of young people and the importance of youth development in Hong Kong. The Commission is an advisory, information-gathering and liaison body. Its main functions will be to advise the Governor of Hong Kong on matters pertaining to youth, to promote co-operation and co-ordination in the delivery of youth services and to serve as a contact point for youth-exchange programmes with overseas organizations. The membership of the Commission is drawn from a wide spectrum of society and also includes senior officials of the Hong Kong Government. The Commission is served by the City and New Territories Administration of the Hong Kong Government.

For further information, contact: Parish Ng, Assistant to the Secretary for Home Affairs, Government Secretariat, Hong Kong Government Southorn Centre, 130 Hennessy Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong. Tel.: 835-1383.

Italy

New student movement in Italy

A new law has been passed in Italy on university education. This law increases the possibilities for private enterprises to invest in universities through the provision of financial aid, thereby giving them greater power to exercise influence over the university system. The new law also reduces the role of the students and their involvement in university management, in other words, their participation in decision-making. In response to that law, Italian university students have launched a protest campaign against the new law.

Source: World Student News, vol. 44, No. 5, 1990.

United States of America

American Youth Work Centre offers exchanges

The American Youth Work Centre (AYWC), established in 1984, is a non-governmental youth service, advocacy, resource and training organization with headquarters in Washington, D.C. Since its foundation, AYWC has sponsored the Practical Training Exchange Programme. At present, 23 agencies throughout the

United States host more than 175 trainees from the United Kingdom, Canada, Iceland, Australia and Jamaica; 16 agencies work with autistic children and youth and the other 7 work with the mentally handicapped.

Trainees earn the prevailing wage for up to 18 months and learn American social-work techniques. AYWC is responsible for screening all applicants, and those whose qualifications match the requirements are provided with training positions in American human-service agencies. Trainees cover their own travel expenses. Agency directors have welcomed the opportunity to host foreign human-service workers.

Interested persons should contact: Bill Treanor, AYWC, 1751 N Street, N.W., Suite 302, Washington, D.C. 20036, United States of America. Tel.: (202) 785-0764.

Source: Youth Work World, vol. 3, No. 1, 1990.

New Zealand

Youth policies and programmes

The Office of Youth Affairs in New Zealand, established in 1989 with the aim of facilitating the integration of young people in governmental decision-making, is currently working on five major projects:

(a) To network - by developing regional structures to provide mechanisms in order to liaise, collect and disseminate information, promote co-ordination and co-operation, and to facilitate youth input on a regional and national basis;

(b) To empower - by facilitating a number of training meetings for student representatives on school boards of trustees and for youth representatives on area health boards in local government;

(c) To communicate - through a regular newsletter with contributions from young people, to highlight issues, comment on services and share ideas and aspirations;

(d) To guide - by producing a publication on guidelines for crisis management;

(e) To inform - through a computer-based youth inventory giving readily available information on people, services and resources.

Further information from: Office of Youth Affairs, Level III, New Kelvin Chambers, 114 The Terrace, P.O. Box 10, Wellington, New Zealand.

Source: In Common. The CYP Newsletter, No. 2, 1990.

Poland

New body responsible for youth affairs in Poland

Since 15 March 1990, the issues of international co-operation in the youth field (formerly handled by the International Department of the Committee for Youth and Physical Culture) are now the responsibility of the Office of Fund

and Youth Exchange, Bureau of the Cabinet, Litewska 2/4 00-581, Warsaw, Poland. The Director is Wojciech Hardt.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

British Youth Council relaunches activities

The British Youth Council (BYC), the umbrella organization representing 6.5 million young people in 70 British youth organizations, had a major relaunch in April 1990. This included a reception, a three-day young people's conference, with the presentation of a new logo. Six new national projects (environment, disability, anti-Semitism, education, training and employment, development education) have been started. International activities include bilateral exchanges with Danish, Hungarian, Polish and Spanish youth councils, an Anglo-Irish conference and a multilateral pan-European event comprising EC, EFTA and the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance countries. For more information contact: Gary Williams, 57 Chalton Street, London NW1 1HU, England. Tel.: (01) 387 7559.

Source: Youth Forum Bulletin, No. 2, 1990.

Young people and the labour market: a challenge for the 1990s

A report was prepared by the Manpower and Education Division of the National Economic Development Office (NEDO) on the effects on employers' recruitment and training policies of the predicted demographic downturn over the next five years in the number of young people available for work in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. It also dealt with the career structures currently on offer.

The report concentrates on the implications for employers and the need for them to turn to alternative labour sources, such as unemployed people, mature workers and those returning to the labour market. NEDO and the Training Commission conducted research by case studies and postal survey to find out to what extent employers were aware of the demographic changes and how they planned to deal with them. The report summarizes the results of the research and looks at options for meeting their future personnel requirements.

Report available from: National Economic Development Office, Millbank Tower, Millbank, London SW1P 4QX. Price: £8; ISBN0 7292 0926 1.

Source: In Common, The CYP Newsletter, No. 2, 1990.

Annex

GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 2037 (XX) OF 7 DECEMBER 1965

The General Assembly,

Recalling that under the terms of the Charter of the United Nations the peoples have declared themselves determined to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war,

Recalling further that in the Charter the United Nations has affirmed its faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity of the human person and in the equal rights of men and nations,

Reaffirming the principles embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 9/ the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, 10/ the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, 11/ General Assembly resolution 110 (II) of 3 November 1947 condemning all forms of propaganda designed or likely to provoke or encourage any threat to the peace, the Declaration of the Rights of the Child, 12/ and General Assembly resolution 1572 (XV) of 18 December 1960, which have a particular bearing upon the upbringing of young people in a spirit of peace, mutual respect and understanding among peoples,

Recalling that the purpose of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization is to contribute to peace and security by promoting collaboration among nations through education, science and culture, and recognizing the role and contributions of that organization towards the education of young people in the spirit of international understanding, co-operation and peace,

Taking into consideration the fact that in the conflagrations which have afflicted mankind it is the young people who have had to suffer most and who have had the greatest number of victims,

Convinced that young people wish to have an assured future and that peace, freedom and justice are among the chief guarantees that their desire for happiness will be fulfilled,

Bearing in mind the important part being played by young people in every field of human endeavour and the fact that they are destined to guide the fortunes of mankind,

Bearing in mind furthermore that, in this age of great scientific, technological and cultural achievements, the energies, enthusiasm and creative abilities of the young should be devoted to the material and spiritual advancement of all peoples,

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9/ Resolution 217 A (III) of 10 December 1948.

10/ Resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960.

11/ Resolution 1904 (XVIII) of 20 November 1963.

12/ Resolution 1386 (XIV) of 20 November 1959.

Convinced that the young should know, respect and develop the cultural heritage of their own country and that of all mankind,

Convinced furthermore that the education of the young and exchanges of young people and of ideas in a spirit of peace, mutual respect and understanding between peoples can help to improve international relations and to strengthen peace and security,

Proclaims this Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding between Peoples and calls upon Governments, non-governmental organizations and youth movements to recognize the principles set forth therein and to ensure their observance by means of appropriate measures:

Principle I

Young people shall be brought up in the spirit of peace, justice, freedom, mutual respect and understanding in order to promote equal rights for all human beings and all nations, economic and social progress, disarmament and the maintenance of international peace and security.

Principle II

All means of education, including as of major importance the guidance given by parents or family, instruction and information intended for the young should foster among them the ideals of peace, humanity, liberty and international solidarity and all other ideals which help to bring peoples closer together, and acquaint them with the role entrusted to the United Nations as a means of preserving and maintaining peace and promoting international understanding and co-operation.

Principle III

Young people shall be brought up in the knowledge of the dignity and equality of all men, without distinction as to race, colour, ethnic origins or beliefs, and in respect for fundamental human rights and for the right of peoples to self-determination.

Principle IV

Exchanges, travel, tourism, meetings, the study of foreign languages, the twinning of towns and universities without discrimination and similar activities should be encouraged and facilitated among young people of all countries in order to bring them together in educational, cultural and sporting activities in the spirit of this Declaration.

Principle V

National and international associations of young people should be encouraged to promote the purposes of the United Nations, particularly international peace and security, friendly relations among nations based on respect for the equal sovereignty of States, the final abolition of colonialism and of racial discrimination and other violations of human rights.

Youth organizations in accordance with this Declaration should take all appropriate measures within their respective fields of activity in order to make their contribution without any discrimination to the work of educating the young generation in accordance with these ideals.

Such organizations, in conformity with the principle of freedom of association, should promote the free exchange of ideas in the spirit of the principles of this Declaration and of the purposes of the United Nations set forth in the Charter.

All youth organizations should conform to the principles set forth in this Declaration.

Principle VI

A major aim in educating the young shall be to develop all their faculties and to train them to acquire higher moral qualities, to be deeply attached to the noble ideals of peace, liberty, the dignity and equality of all men, and imbued with respect and love for humanity and its creative achievements. To this end the family has an important role to play.

Young people must become conscious of their responsibilities in the world they will be called upon to manage and should be inspired with confidence in a future of happiness for mankind.